

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**County:** Region-Wide

**Applicant:** California Community Forests Foundation

**Project Title:** The Conifer Classroom (Project number SNC 080080)

## PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is the **creation and dissemination of a high quality resource** for use by classroom teachers, outdoor educators, public agency personnel, park docents, and others. The resource, *The Conifer Classroom*, will be approximately 250-300 pages in length. The unique contribution of *The Conifer Curriculum* is that it will include the following in one easy-to-use resource:

- ✓ A review of basic ecological principles of forests and watersheds
- ✓ Information on ecology and natural history of California's coniferous forests and watersheds
- ✓ Information on the human history of California's coniferous forests and watersheds
- ✓ How to set up and conduct a field trip that is safe for kids and for the environment
- ✓ Lessons and classroom activities for before, during, and after a field trip to a field trip to the coniferous forest/watershed
- ✓ Up-to-date resources for teachers, naturalists, interpreters

Once written, *The Conifer Classroom* will be disseminated in a variety of ways. It will be produced by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and will be available for downloading on its Web site. The DPR will also produce *The Conifer Classroom* in CD and print formats. These will be initially distributed free of charge to all of the state parks, national parks, and County Offices of Education in the SNC service area, water agencies, outdoor education programs, California Science Project sites, education and environmental studies programs of colleges and universities, and individuals and organizations that indicate an interest. After the initial free dissemination, print and CD copies will be available for a minimal fee to cover shipping. The California Community Forests Foundation will do both the dissemination immediately following publication and subsequent distribution.

Workshops to introduce the guide will be offered at the conferences of the California Science Teachers, the Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, and the Bay Area Environmental Education Fair (in which several Sierra-based outdoor education programs participate), and others as yet to be determined.

## PROJECT SCOPE

SNC funding will be utilized to produce *The Conifer Classroom*, including research, writing, illustration, and formatting. As *The Conifer Classroom* is being written, it will be reviewed by educators, scientists, and others to assure accuracy and high quality. Some of them have submitted letters of support. Others have made verbal commitments to help, but have not yet submitted letters, and still others are yet to be identified. As noted above, The DPR will provide the actual production of CDs and print copies, and will make *The Conifer Classroom* available on its Web site. We anticipate an initial distribution of at least 80 copies, with additional copies distributed over the next several years.

One of the main staff development programs for the California Department of Education is the California Science Projects (CSPs). Several of the CSPs serve teachers in the SNC area, as do several colleges and universities. We will make *The Conifer Classroom* available to them and offer to do educator workshops when it is finished. In addition, we will make copies available to outdoor schools and outdoor education programs throughout the region. Several of these programs have already indicated their interest and support. Please see the Letters of Support.

In addition to the dissemination of print and CD copies of The Conifer Classroom, we intend to provide a minimum of 5 workshops to introduce the guide to users during the funding period, and anticipate doing more after the project funding period.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Appendix II contains 22 letters of support from a variety of agencies and groups. The letters of support include (among others) letters from:

- California Community Forests Foundation (Hugh Merriam)
- CA. Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Interpretation & Education Division (Donna Pozzi)
- Plumas Co. Office of Education (Robert Wade)
- Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods (Michele Luna)
- Yosemite Institute (Dr. Adam Burns)
- Sacramento County Office of Education
- CA. Department of Fish and Game, Project WILD and WILD Aquatic (Bobbie Winn)
- San Diego Co. Office of Education, Outdoor Education Program (Brian Swagerty)
- C.S.U. Fresno and Central Valley Science Project (Dr. James Marshall)
- Merced Co. Office of Education, J.L. Boyd Outdoor School (Peter Leinau)
- CA Regional Environmental Education Community Network (Deborah Bruns)
- Forestry Institute for Teachers (Heather Morrison)
- CA. Dept. of Water Resources, Northern District (Eugene Pixley)

### SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Employ writer/consultant: begin research and writing	December, 2008
Writing and reviewing of guide continues; employ illustrator	Jan., 2009-Oct., 2009
Complete and submit six month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2009
Finish writing, reviewing, illustrating; submit to CA DPR	January, 2010
Guide available on DPR web site and in print and CD formats	April, 2010
Conduct educator workshops	Jan., 2010-Oct., 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 31, 2010

### SNC PROJECT COST

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel (administration, writer, illustrator, workshops, including SNC performance reporting)	\$21,400
Support (supplies, postage, reference, telephone)	600
Travel (research, photography, workshops)	1,400
Production (editing, formatting)	2,500
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,900</b>